

Markell Confers Governor's Heritage Award upon the Honorable William T. Quillen

Governor Jack Markell presented the Governor's Heritage Award to former Delaware Supreme Court Justice and Secretary of State William T. Quillen at a ceremony on Wednesday at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover. The Governor's Heritage Award is given to those Delawareans who have contributed significantly to the recognition, preservation, and celebration of Delaware's heritage. Quillen is the ninth person to receive the distinction.

While serving as Secretary of State from 1993-1994, Quillen was the driving force behind the planning of a new Public Archives building, which holds more than 95,000 cubic feet of government records and historical documents.

"When he became Secretary of State, Bill took a special interest in the Archives and what it needed to grow and modernize," said Governor Markell. "He was determined to help it be the top-notch facility he and others knew it could be."

On a more local level, Quillen has long been a champion for the preservation and celebration of New Castle's historic legacy, including as a former Vice President and Director of the New Castle Historical Society.

In addition to his service as Delaware's Secretary of State, Quillen has held the distinguished posts of Superior Court Judge, Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, and Supreme Court Justice. He has also worked for many years in private law practice, and is currently Of Counsel at the Wilmington office of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. He has taught law at Widener University and has written about the history of Delaware's Court of Chancery, in addition to other academic publications.

Quillen received his BA from Williams College, his LL.B. from Harvard Law School and his LL.M. from University of Virginia School of Law. He was joined at Wednesday's ceremony by members of his family, as well as current and past colleagues, including Superior Court Resident Judge Richard Cooch, former Secretaries of State Harriet Smith Windsor and Edward J. Freel, and current Chief Deputy Secretary of State Richard Geisenberger.

[Photos from this event](#)

[Video excerpt of Governor Markell's remarks](#)